



## ANTHRAX

<b>Agent Overview:</b>	The causative agent of Anthrax is the bacterium <i>Bacillus anthracis</i> , a large, aerobic, gram positive and spore-forming rod.
<b>Lab Specimen Submittal:</b>	Authorization by Dr. Jane Getchell, DPHL director, Christina Pleasanton, DPHL deputy director, or Dr. Jack Liou, bioterrorism coordinator.
<b>Type of Specimens Necessary for Testing:</b>	<p>Environmental testing for culture and/or PCR: Use two dry Dacron swabs (not cotton) to collect specimen and put in two separate sterile tubes (paper, powder, bone, hair, soil, wipes, water).</p> <p>Clinical specimens for culture and/or PCR: pleural fluid, sputum, fresh tissue, frozen tissue, or transtracheal aspirates. Whole blood (EDTA) purple-top tube or serum (red/black top tube) may also be submitted for PCR. If whole blood or serum is submitted, a blood culture bottle must be drawn to confirm the PCR result.</p> <p>Grown organism for culture and/or PCR from sentinel laboratory: referred organism on agar or in liquid media for rule-out testing or confirmation.</p> <p>Food Specimen- at least 10 grams of food in leak-proof container.</p>
<b>Packaging Instructions:</b>	<p>Environmental specimens must be double bagged and the outside of the bag decontaminated (10% bleach).</p> <p>Grown organisms, food or clinical specimens must be in unbreakable double containers and outside of container decontaminated (10% bleach).</p>
<b>Receiving Specimens at DPHL:</b>	Authorized specimens are accepted at the back of the DPHL building by the loading dock. Submitter must present identification and have proper forms completed.
<b>Handling of Specimens:</b>	Chain of custody procedures must be followed for environmental samples or any samples, specimens and materials that could be used as evidence in a legal proceeding. Environmental samples are kept at room temperature and clinical specimens at refrigerator temperature (in a cooler, but not frozen) until delivered to the laboratory.
<b>Reporting Results:</b>	<p><u>Preliminary:</u> A preliminary positive or negative test result is issued upon completion of PCR. PCR may take 4 to 24 hrs. <u>However, all PCR results must be confirmed by culture.</u></p> <p><u>Negative:</u> Negative culture reports are issued after 48 hrs.</p> <p><u>Positive:</u> Positive culture reports may be issued as early as 48 hrs after initial set up.</p>
<b>Contact Information:</b>	Jane Getchell, DrPH, DPHL director: 302-223-1520 (24/7 coverage).

**24/7 Emergency Contact Number: 1-888-295-5156**

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